

Portrait of the Artist

Painter portrays emotions as colorful art

By Barbara Gallo Farrell
Poughkeepsie Journal

Editor's note: Portrait of the Artist is a regular feature in Enjoy! that spotlights artists with exhibits in the Hudson Valley. If you are an artist in a current or upcoming exhibit and would like to be included in this feature, email bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com. This week's Portrait of the Artist features Petra Nimtz, whose work is on display in the "Four 4 Four" exhibit at Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie through April 26.

Tell us about your art in the exhibit "Four" and what inspired you to select it for the exhibit.

My title for the show at the Barrett Center is "Visual Diaries of My Inner World" and I chose work that reflects that sort of emotion the most to me.

Do you stick to a certain theme in your work or like to explore new techniques and subjects?

I am an intuitive painter trusting my instincts, my hands. Not having a concept or idea in my mind allows me to explore the surface of the canvas more freely and without any techniques.

Do you think creative individuals like yourself perceive the world differently from other people?

Obviously as a painter I am a more visual individual and that might be different from how I see the world compared to others.

What do you hope viewers come away with after seeing your work?

I hope that the viewers simply enjoy looking at my work and that it evokes a positive reaction in them. They might come up with an interpretation of it which is the beauty of abstraction because it



"It Ain't So" by Petra Nimtz. COURTESY PHOTOS

leaves it up to the viewer what they like to see in it.

Do you see yourself in your artwork? How?

I see myself the most in the colors that I'm using and often they really are a reflection of myself.

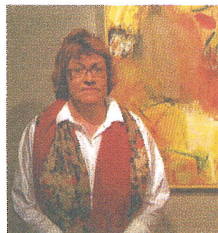
How have you handled the business side of being an artist?

Luckily enough I have been able to work with an art consultant over the past couple of years which has made it much easier for me to concentrate on what I do best: paint.

Describe yourself in one word. Why that word?

Adventurous — because I have tried so many different things in my life which has helped me to discover my passion for creating abstract art.

What's in your sketch-



Petra Nimtz

book right now?

I do not work from sketches and therefore don't have a sketchbook.

What type of art decorates your home?

Contemporary abstract art by other artists whom I may or may not have met in person.

How does your background contribute to your process as an artist?

Since I do not have a



"When the Dreamer Dies, What Happens to the Dream" by Petra Nimtz.

professional background in art I believe that all of my travels around the world, living in foreign countries, are reflected in my work, my visual diaries.

What excites you about art — what keeps you interested?

Everything about art is exciting to me and I constantly keep myself occupied with art-related



"Soul Cage II" by Petra Nimtz.



"Burning Sensibility" by Petra Nimtz.

things such as art books, artists' biographies, art DVDs. I do read a lot about my favorite artists, i.e., Willem DeKooning, Philip Guston, Robert Motherwell, Joan Mitchell, Helen Frankenthaler, just to name a few.

Woodstock resident Petra Nimtz was born and raised in Germany. After extensive years of traveling, she immigrated to Canada in 2002 when she started her professional

art career. In Vancouver, she took courses at Emily Carr Institute and was inspired by English-Canadian abstract painter Carolyn Stockbridge. After studying at the Art Students League in New York, she was influenced by painter/instructor Frank O'Cain. Her work has been shown regionally and internationally, and is in art collections in the United States, Canada and Europe. Visit www.petranimtz.com.